

AGENDA



Thursday, June 11, 2009

**Health and Human Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**
Item No. 18

Subject: Approve an ordinance accepting \$30,601 in grant funds from the TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES, HIV/STD PREVENTION AND CARE BRANCH; and amending the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Health and Human Services Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20080908-002 to appropriate \$30,601 for the purposes of HIV/AIDS health education and prevention in Travis County and to add one full-time equivalent position.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the Texas Department of State Health Services, HIV/STD Prevention and Care Branch. The grant period is January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. No City match is required.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Philip Huang M.D. M.P.H., Medical Director, 972-5805; Shaintay Abudu, Program Manager, 972-5457; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

Prior Council Action: Approval of Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget on September 8, 2008 and Ordinance No. 20090521-016, May 21, 2009 amending the grant award.

The Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) is allocating funds for the continuation of the HIV Prevention Project to provide counseling, testing and education to the community in order to help reduce the spread of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), increase the number of persons who know their HIV status and reduce associated morbidity and mortality among HIV-infected persons and their partners. TDSHS allocates federal pass-through funds for the prevention of HIV and AIDS cases throughout Travis County.

TDSHS is awarding Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) an additional \$30,601 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 for a Social Networks Strategy (SNS) intervention program. The budget amendment will provide \$30,601 for one new, full-time equivalent position (FTE), an HHSD Program Coordinator, and associated non-personnel costs. The HHSD Program Coordinator will be responsible for implementing and coordinating the program, networking in the community to elicit support, and identifying and training recruiters to talk to and encourage their friends (social network associates) on the importance of getting tested for HIV. Many of the network associates will also recruit their peers to test. The recruiters and associates will receive incentives for their work and for the number of individuals they bring in for testing. The SNS is a cost-effective, incentive-based, targeted and focused recruitment approach shown to be very successful in reaching highest risk, hard-to-reach individuals with undiagnosed HIV infection and getting them connected to Counseling, Testing and Referral (CTR) services. The SNS for CTR is based on the underlying principle that people who are in the same social network share the same risks and risk behaviors for HIV.

Performance measures will not be affected by the additional grant funding and the additional FTE because the FTE will spend the remaining four months of 2009 in training and setting up the implementation phase of the Social Networking Program. Performance measures will be affected in the FY10 grant period when the implementation begins.

All department grant application requests are reviewed by the Budget Office prior to submission to ensure that the grant minimizes the financial impact to the City. In the event that funding for the additional position is eliminated, the need for the the position will be reviewed.